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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/762,481	01/23/2004	Kazuo Iizuka	02975.000131	4938

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EXAMINER

KIM, PETER B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2851

DATE MAILED: 11/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/762,481	Applicant(s) IIZUKA ET AL.	
	Examiner Peter B. Kim	Art Unit 2851	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 September 2005.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.
- 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 - 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 92005.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's arguments filed on Sept. 22, 2005 have been fully considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 10-14, and 19-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinozaki et al. (Shinozaki) (6,288,772) in view of Suzuki et al. (Suzuki) (5,412,214).

Shinozaki discloses a method of exposing a member and a projection exposure apparatus and method which uses a mask (M) including plural columns of a mask for repeated exposure to a member to form plural columns of an exposure pattern (col. 9, lines 12-21). Shinozaki disclose an illumination system, an exposure stage, a mask stage and a controller for driving the member by a movement amount equal to n times a pitch of the columns and moving the mask by a movement amount equal to n times a pitch of the columns (col. 15, line 55 – col. 16, line 42). However, Shinozaki does not disclose step-and-repeat. Suzuki discloses a projection exposure apparatus and method (Fig. 1) comprising member (W), exposure stage (20), a mask (R) and a projection system (PL) which projects the light from the mask to the member in a step and repeat process. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide a projection system of Suzuki to the invention of Shinozaki in order to change the magnification and to reduce the size of the pattern on the member.

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Claims 6-9, 15-18, and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinozaki et al. (Shinozaki) in view of Suzuki et al. (Suzuki) (5,412,214) and Kondo (6,597,002).

Shinozaki discloses a method of exposing a member and a projection exposure apparatus and method which uses a mask (M) including plural columns of a mask for repeated exposure to a member to form plural columns of an exposure pattern (col. 9, lines 12-21). Shinozaki disclose an illumination system, an exposure stage, a mask stage and a controller for driving the member by a movement amount equal to n times a pitch of the columns and moving the mask by a movement amount equal to n times a pitch of the columns (col. 15, line 55 – col. 16, line 42). However, Shinozaki does not disclose step-and-repeat. Suzuki discloses a projection exposure apparatus and method (Fig. 1) comprising member (W), exposure stage (20), a mask (R) and a projection system (PL) which projects the light from the mask to the member in a step and repeat process. Kondo discloses a light shielding member (BL) in a exposure apparatus. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide a projection system of Suzuki to the invention of Shinozaki in order to change the magnification and to reduce the size of the pattern on the member and to provide a light shielding member of Kondo in order to provide higher exposure accuracy as taught by Kondo in col. 2, lines 49-54.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter B. Kim whose telephone number is (571) 272-2120. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Peter B. Kim
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2851

November 3, 2005